

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 NSC-06 SS-07 AID-01 (ISO) W

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R 091208Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2439

STAFFDEL COOK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TAGS: OREP (COOK, FRANKLIN), PFOR KU

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL COOK VISIT TO KUWAIT

1. STAFFDEL COOK HAD INFORMATIVE MEETINGS ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS HERE JUNE 7-8. IN ADDITION TO BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH CHARGE AND EMBOFFS, COOK MET WITH OFFICIALS AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CENTRAL BANK, PLANNING BOARD, KUWAIT FUND AND MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. HE ALSO DISCUSSED KUWAITI INVESTMENT IN US REAL ESTATE WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE AMERICAN BANKER INVOLVED IN THIS ACTIVITY. COOK WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PLANNING ASPECTS OF KUWAITI INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS, AND HE RECEIVED GOOD BRIEFINGS FROM WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS.

2. HE ALSO TRIED TO GET READING ON GOK REACTION TO RECENT CALL BY ARAFAT ON ARAB OPEC STATES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNRWA. MFA OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, WAS EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING OFFICIAL KUWAITI PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIANS. HE REITERATED STANDARD GOK LINE THAT "THEIR PROBLEM IS OUR PROBLEM," AND HE NOTED OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN KUWAIT AND OTHER DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PLO UNDER RABAT SUMMIT COMMITMENTS.

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HE WAS CAREFUL, HOWEVER, NOT TO GIVE ANY INDICATION, ONE WAY

OR THE OTHER, WHETHER GOK WOULD INCREASE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO UNRWA.

3. COMMENT: COOK SEEMED GENERALLY PLEASED WITH DISCUSSIONS IN
KUWAIT EVEN THOUGH A NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS FELL THROUGH
AT LAST MINUTE. SEVERAL KEY OFFICIALS WERE OUT OF TOWN, AND IT
PROVED TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MEET WITH SENIOR GOK
OFFICIALS. NEVERTHELESS WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS, EXCEPT IN MFA,
WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE AND AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS
OF KUWAIT POSITIONS AND PROGRAMS.
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